

REMARKS

The final Office Action of August 5, 2009, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 8, 19 and 26 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to claims 8, 19 and 26 do not raise new issues. Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 8-11, 13 and 19-29 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 8-13 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Richardson (U.S. Patent No. 6,646,864, "Richardson").

Amended claim 8 recites, *inter alia*,

a plastic object of a homogeneous material, the plastic object including:
a first surface, which first surface comprises a hollow having a shape of a symbol, wherein a portion of the first surface forming the hollow is configured to transmit light emitted by a light source; and
a second surface located on the opposite side of the plastic object with respect to said first surface, wherein said symbol is visually perceptible through the second surface when light is emitted from a side that said first surface faces,
wherein the first and second surface are formed of a homogenous material and wherein the hollow does not extend to the second surface, and
wherein said second surface is configured to reflect light.

(Emphasis added). Contrary to the assertions of the Office Action, Richardson does not teach or suggest each and every feature. For example, nowhere does Richardson teach or suggest that the second surface, located on the opposite of the plastic object with respect to the first surface, is configured to reflect light. The Office Action asserts that element 102 in Figs. 1-12 describe a second surface and that the phrase "configured to" only requires the ability to perform. P. 5. Even assuming, without conceding that the above assertions are valid, there is still no teaching or suggestion in Richardson of element 102 (i.e., the alleged second surface) having the ability to reflect light. Accordingly, claim 8 is allowable for at least these reasons.

Furthermore, Richardson lacks a teaching or suggestion that the first surface of a plastic object, the first surface comprises a hollow having a shape of a symbol, wherein said symbol is

visually perceptible through the second surface of the object when light is emitted from a side facing the first surface, as recited in claim 8. The Office Action analogizes elements 818 and 914 to the first surface and a hollow, respectively. Even assuming, without conceding that recesses 818 and 914 constitute a hollow and a first surface, there is still no teaching or suggestion in Richardson that touch screen 820 (i.e., the alleged light source) emits light *from a side the first surface faces*. For example, Richardson lacks a teaching or suggestion of whether the recesses are recessed from the exterior or the interior of cover 804. In fact, nowhere does Richardson teach or suggest that recesses 818 and 914 include any surfaces. It thus follows that Richardson also fails to teach or suggest that the recesses 818 and 914 (i.e., the alleged hollow) do not extend to the second surface (since there is no second surface), as also recited in claim 8.

Claims 19 and 26 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 8 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 8.

Claims 9-13, 20-25 and 27-29 are dependent claims and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims and further in view of the novel and non-obvious features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
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